

Rural District of Marlborough
and Ramsbury



Library

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1964

MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

(as at December, 1964)

The Rt. Hon. Lord Romilly, Chairman

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Councillor Miss P. E. Courtman	Councillor Mrs. M. E. Knapp
Councillor Capt. K. A. H. Cummins	Councillor F. M. Lawton
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Councillor Major R. D. Horton	Councillor J. B. Wroth
Councillor R. J. Horton	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

F. D. F. Steede, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

(Commenced 1st November, 1964)

Council Offices, 1 The Green,
Marlborough (Tel. 487 and 118)

H. I. Lockett, M.B., B.S., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

(Resigned 30th June, 1964)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

K. F. Hudson, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

F. J. Orrigan, M.A.P.H.I.

Rodent Officer:

M. W. Welch

Clerk (M.O.H. Office):

Miss G. M. Boswell

Clerk (R.D.C. Offices):

Mrs. A. Penny

Public Health Department, R.D.C. Offices, London Road, Marlborough
(Tel. 894)

The Medical Officer of Health acts in a similar capacity for the Borough of Marlborough and the Rural Districts of Amesbury and Pewsey. These combined districts have a population of 62,370 and an area of 235,289 acres. They have appointed a Joint Committee, the East Wiltshire United District (Medical Officer of Health) Committee, to deal with all matters relating to the office of Medical Officer of Health. The Medical Officer also performs duties for the Wiltshire County Council under the National Health Service, Education and Mental Health Acts.

RURAL DISTRICT OF MARLBOROUGH AND RAMSBURY

East Wilts United Districts (M.O.H.) Office,

1 The Green,

Marlborough.

Tel. Marlborough 487/118.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT :

My Lord Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1964, and since I only took up my appointment on the 1st November, 1964, the basis for this report is provided by material supplied by my predecessor Dr. H. I. Lockett and the vital statistics by the Registrar General. I am grateful to the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Hudson, for his report which, as in previous years, is included. I am also indebted to Dr. Lycett, County Medical Officer, for supplying details of immunisation procedures carried out.

The District with Marlborough Borough at its centre, extends for a distance of approximately 15 miles east to west and 10 miles north to south and much of it is situated on downland. It is primarily concerned with agriculture and agricultural pursuits and there is very little industrial activity in the district apart from this. A certain number of the inhabitants, however, find their livelihood in industrial concerns in the nearby Borough of Swindon to the north east, and during the year there has been little or no significant unemployment. The District is a very pleasant one, with an attraction for visitors containing as it does the Savernake Forest and part of the river Kennet Valley for a great deal of its extent. It also has important archaeological remains, the best known of which are probably the prehistoric stone circles in Avebury. The District is important from the communication point of view and is traversed by several main road routes including for all its width the London to Bristol (A4) road. The fore-shadowed M4 extension too will also pass through a part of the area.

The general health of the District has remained extremely good. The number of deaths 120, with a death rate of 9.7 is below the national average, while the number of births 184—much the same as last year—is 1.4 per 1,000 population, higher than the national figure. The mid-year estimated population has, however, shown virtually no change. In considering the deaths which have occurred, those for infants at nine, with seven of these under one week, are on the high side, resulting in a mortality rate which is more than double the national figure. This figure is not of great significance, based as it is on a small number of deaths and the table which is included covering the past five years gives a better picture in this respect. Just over one third of all deaths were due to heart disease with a figure of

42, of these 17 were due to coronary heart disease. Although the precise cause of coronary heart disease is imperfectly understood, there is little doubt that preventive measures should include moderation in diet, regular daily exercise and avoidance of cigarette smoking, since cigarette smokers—particularly younger smokers—have a higher death rate from this condition. Cancer accounted for 21 deaths of which no less than eight (seven in males) were due to cancer of the lung. This disease kills annually more than three and a half times the number killed on the roads, many in the 40-50 year age group, and accounts for 38% of the cancer deaths from all causes in males and 8% in females. It is a reasonable approximation that of these premature deaths, nine out of ten are due to the fact that the victim was a cigarette smoker. There are signs that the more intelligent members of the younger generation are taking note of these facts, but it is unreasonable to expect much alteration in the smoking habit of the older cigarette smoker of long standing, since it is a true addiction. Accidental deaths number four, of these one was due to a road traffic accident, another involved a farm tractor, leaving two accidental deaths which could be classified as accidents in or around the home. It is a surprise to many people to learn that there are more home accidental deaths annually than there are on the roads.

As regards housing no statutory overcrowding has been reported. At the end of the year the total number of applications for Council accommodation was 196, of these over 70 were from persons from addresses outside the rural district and 23 were from persons over 65 years of age. I doubt if this latter figure is a real indication of the needs of the elderly for special accommodation and there is little danger of overbuilding this type of accommodation at the present time. In my view grouped accommodation for the elderly with the appointment of a warden has much to commend it in the larger parishes.

It is good to know that the Council have the welfare of the elderly at heart and I have been encouraged by the support from members in my efforts to arrange for a "Meals on Wheels" service in the district, in co-operation with the County Welfare Department and important voluntary assistance.

The water supply now the responsibility of the Swindon Corporation continues to be sampled regularly and a section of Mr. Hudson's report covers this matter. I am also indebted to Mr. E. W. Hampshire, Water Engineer for the Swindon Corporation, for kindly letting me have a summary of the Corporation's work in respect of the district. All supplies are obtained from well defended sources and chlorinated. My predecessor, Dr. Lockett, referred to the importance of adjusting the fluoride content of the water which is at present too low for optimum dental health and it is hoped that this important public health measure will be implemented in the near future by the County Council.

During the year a certain amount of work was done for families with problems of which I am glad to say there are relatively few. The County Council have a co-ordinating committee which meets regularly, does very useful work and deserves every support.

Drainage and Sewerage has made some progress during the year and the object must continue to be to sewer the more densely populated areas, particularly those where there are at present difficulties from malfunction of septic tanks.

In the year which has seen the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak there should not be a great deal of necessity to labour the importance of food hygiene. Nevertheless, this is something which from experience we know needs regular and constant supervision by your public health inspectorate and I am glad to know that Mr. Hudson has given a good deal of attention to this matter with his limited staff available.

A small amount of raw milk is still being sold retail in certain parts of the district. Occasionally raw milk can be the vehicle for the organisms which cause brucellosis, food poisoning and rarely enteric fever, although tuberculosis I am glad to say, due to the vigorous policy of recent years, is almost a non-existent risk. However, I would suggest to parents particularly, that milk where possible should be obtained which has been subjected to pasteurisation or other heat-treatment.

I feel sure that brucellosis should be made a notifiable disease, while an eradication scheme for our dairy herds would bring both public health and veterinary benefits, and heat-treatment of all retail milk with suitable exemptions in cases of real hardship, seems to me to be a reasonable proposition.

Of the six cases of food poisoning which occurred, one was due to a salmonella typhi murium infection, source unknown, and the remaining five occurred in a single family, where the causative organism was unidentified. Apart from the incidence of measles, infectious disease was very small.

No cases of poliomyelitis has occurred. Immunisation against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, is at a very satisfactory level which I hope will be maintained in the future.

In concluding this report I should like to thank members of the Council who have given me a great deal of support and have made me feel a welcome addition to the staff. I am very grateful to the officers of the Council for their co-operation and friendliness, particularly to Mr. Hudson and his staff.

I should also like to thank Dr. Lishman, who acts as my Deputy, for his work for the Council during the interim period and particularly for his kindness to me on my appointment. Finally I should like to thank my clerical assistant, Miss Boswell, for her very valued assistance and particularly for her work in preparing this Annual Report.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	94,510
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	25
Estimated Population (mid 1964)	...	...	...	...	10,190
Number of inhabited houses and flats	...	...	...	...	3,466
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.64)	...	...	...	...	£229,738
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£921

VITAL STATISTICS

					M.	F.	Total
<i>Live Births</i> —Legitimate	...	...	...	...	82	95	177
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
				Totals	85	99	184
<i>Live Birth Rate</i> per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...			18.05
<i>Illegitimate Live Births</i> per cent. of total live births	...	...	...	...			3.8
<i>Stillbirths</i> —Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
				Totals	1	1	2
<i>Stillbirth Rate</i> per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...			10.8
<i>Total Live and Stillbirths</i>	...	...	...	...	86	100	186
<i>Deaths</i>	...	...	...	...	62	58	120
<i>Death Rate</i> per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...			11.8
<i>Infant Deaths</i> (under one year)—Legitimate	...	...	...	...	5	3	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
				Totals	6	3	9

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	...	49.0	
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	45.2	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	143.0	
<i>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</i> (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	43.47	
Total neo-natal deaths	...	...	...	...	5	3	8
Legitimate neo-natal deaths	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
Illegitimate neo-natal deaths	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
<i>Early neo-natal Mortality Rate</i> (deaths under 1 week)	...	...	...	...	...	...	38.0
Total early neo-natal deaths	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
Legitimate early neo-natal deaths	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
Illegitimate early neo-natal deaths	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
<i>Perinatal Mortality Rate</i> (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	...	...	48.39
<i>Maternal Mortality</i> (including abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
				<i>Year</i>			
		1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	
Infant Deaths	...	4	1	5	6	9	
Infant Mortality Rate	...	23.7	5.6	27.9	29.3	49.0	

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1964

<i>Causes of Death</i>					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	1	2	3
11	„ „ lung, bronchus	...	...	...	7	1	8
12	„ „ breast	...	...	...	—	2	2
13	„ „ uterus	...	...	...	—	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	3	5	8
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—	—
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	—	—
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	3	8	11
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	8	9	17
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	1	2	3
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	9	13	22
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	4	3	7
22	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	3	9
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	1	3
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	—	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	—	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	1	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	—	1
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	2	2	4
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	10	5	15
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	—	1
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	2	1	3
35	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—
All Causes					62	58	120

Comparison with England and Wales

	<i>per 1,000 population</i>		<i>per 1,000 Live Births</i>	<i>per 1,000 Total Births</i>
	<i>Live Births (Adjusted)</i>	<i>Death Rate (Adjusted)</i>	<i>Infant Mortality</i>	<i>Stillbirths</i>
Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D.	19.85	9.7	49.0	10.87
England and Wales	18.4	11.3	20.0	16.3

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

General Practitioners:

Dr. H. J. Fenn, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Church Street, Great Bedwyn.
Tel.: G/Bedwyn 388.

Dr. W. T. Mills, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Dr. T. J. Tiplady, M.B., B.S.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Obst.R.C.O.G. } Kennet House, Ramsbury.
Dr. R. N. C. Kempton, M.B. } Tel.: Ramsbury 366/7.

Dr. J. B. Maurice, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Dr. T. K. Maurice, M.B., B.Chir.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. } The Surgery, High Street,
Dr. T. R. Maurice, M.A., M.B., Marlborough.
B.Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. } Tel.: Marlborough 587.
Dr. R. O. Wheeler, M.B., B.S.,
F.R.S.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. }

Hospitals:

Savernake Hospital. Tel.: Marlborough 820.

Children's Convalescent Hospital. Tel.: Marlborough 771.

The Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon. Tel.: Swindon 6231.

Stratton St. Margaret's Hospital. Tel.: Stratton St. Margaret 3331.

Swindon Isolation Hospital. Tel.: Swindon 5193.

(Venereal Disease Clinic—Tuesday and Thursday 2-6 p.m.)

Public Health Laboratory Service:

Salisbury General Infirmary. Tel.: Salisbury 3231.

Swindon Princess Margaret Hospital. Tel.: Swindon 6231.

County Council Health Department Services:

(a) Ambulance Facilities

This service is based in Swindon. Tel.: Swindon 3436.

(b) District Nurse/Midwife

Mrs. J. Nightingale,
4 Barrow Close,
Elcot Lane,
Marlborough.
Tel.: Marlborough 546.

Mrs. E. Nevin,
18 Whittonditch Road,
Ramsbury.
Tel.: Ramsbury 289.

Avebury, Beckhampton, Fyfield, East
and West Kennett, Lockeridge, Mil-
denhall, Ogbourne St. Andrew,
Ogbourne St. George, Preshute,
Savernake, West Overton.

Aldbourn, Baydon, Chilton Foliat,
Ramsbury.

(c) <i>Clinics</i>	
Aldbourne, Memorial Hall.	Third Thursday of each month 2.15-4.30 p.m.
Avebury, The Club Room.	First Wednesday of each month 2.30-4.30 p.m.
Baydon, Mobile Centre, Car Park, Red Lion.	Fourth Thursday of each month 2.30-4.00 p.m.
Broad Hinton, Mobile Centre, The Stores.	Third Tuesday of each month 2.00 p.m.
Chilton Foliat, The Village Hall.	Second Tuesday of each month 2.30-3.30 p.m.
East Grafton, The Village Hall.	Fourth Tuesday of each month 2.00-4.00 p.m.
Great Bedwyn, Church Reading Room.	Second Tuesday of each month 2.30-4.00 p.m.
Marlborough Maternity and Child Welfare, 8 Kingsbury Street. Tel.: Marlborough 832.	Every Friday 2.30-4.00 p.m.
Ogbourne St. George, The Village Hall.	Second Wednesday of each month 2.30-4.00 p.m.
Oxenwood, Village Hall.	Second Tuesday of each month 2.30-4.00 p.m.
Ramsbury, Memorial Hall.	First Thursday of each month 2.15-3.30 p.m.
Winterbourne Bassett, Mobile Centre, Post Office.	Third Tuesday of each month 3.00 p.m.

(d) *Health Visitors*

Miss B. Poulter,
Pear Tree Cottage,
Great Bedwyn.
Tel.: G/Bedwyn 283.

Buttermere, Crofton, Grafton, Great
Bedwyn, Little Bedwyn, Bedwyn
Common & Thistledown, Ham,
Martin, Oxenwood, St. Katherine's,
Shalbourne, Stype & Bagshot Est.,
Tidcombe & Fosbury, Wexcombe,
Wilton.

Miss E. R. Chesney,
The Barn,
Easton Royal.
Tel.: Burbage 248.

Berwick Bassett, Broad Hinton, Win-
terbourne Bassett, Avebury, West
Kennett, East Kennett, Savernake,
West Overton.

Mrs. S. D. Biggs,
16 Somerville Road,
Walcot, Swindon.
Tel.: Swindon 21550.

Aldbourn, Baydon, Chilton Foliat,
Fyfield, Preshute, Ramsbury, Frox-
field.

Miss J. Bown,
Melbourne Villa,
Monkton Road, Avebury.
Tel.:

Avebury, Winterbourne Monkton,
Mildenhall, Ogbourne St. Andrew,
Ogbourne St. George, Ogbourne
Maizy & Rockley.

(e) *Mental Welfare Officer:*

Health Centre, Milton Road, Swindon. Tel.: Swindon 22668.

(f) *Chiropody Service:*

This is mainly a domiciliary service.

County Council Welfare Department:

Area Welfare Officer: Mr. A. P. A. Tucker, 66 New Park Street, Devizes.
Tel.: Devizes 976.

Social Welfare Officer (for the blind): Miss J. Harrison, 20 St. Martin's,
Marlborough. Tel.: Marlborough 604.

County Council Children's Department:

The Area Children's Officer, 36 Milton Road, Swindon. Tel.: Swindon
4102.

IMMUNISATIONS STATISTICS, 1964

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation

<i>Year of Birth</i>		1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1955-59	1950-54
Primary immunisations completed during 1964	Diph.	71	101	8	4	—	10	—
	Wh/c.	71	101	7	3	—	1	—
	Tet.	71	101	8	4	—	25	6
Reinforcing injections administered during 1964	Diph.	—	27	44	4	5	113	3
	Wh/c.	—	18	29	2	2	8	—
	Tet.	—	27	43	4	5	108	7

Smallpox Vaccination

	<i>Months</i>				<i>Years</i>			
Age Group	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-14	15+
Vaccinations	1	5	2	—	65	6	—	5
Re-vaccinations	—	—	—	—	—	6	19	27

Poliomyelitis Immunisation

<i>Age Group</i>	2nd inj.	3rd inj.	4th inj.	3 oral doses	3rd oral after 2 injs.	4th oral after 2 injs. and 1 oral	4th oral after 3 injs. or 3 oral
1964	—	—	—	26	—	—	—
1963	—	5	—	97	1	—	1
1962	—	—	—	25	1	—	1
1961	—	—	—	10	—	6	1
1943-1960	—	—	—	31	—	13	126
1933-1942	—	—	—	10	—	—	1
Others	—	—	—	10	—	—	—
Totals	—	5	—	209	2	19	130

WATER SUPPLY

(A report by Mr. Hampshire, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., Water Engineer, Borough of Swindon)

“Following the two preceding winters which were deficient in rainfall, by the end of the dry summer of 1964 underground water levels were abnormally low, nevertheless the public water supplies were fully maintained throughout the districts.

“In the course of the year a larger pump was installed in one of the boreholes at the Ramsbury source. This measure will increase the safety of the supply from this source to Aldbourne, Axford, Chilton Foliat, Froxfield, Mildenhall and Ramsbury.

“The tables listing and summarising the bacteriological and the chemical analysis results are attached.”

Bacteriological Analysis, 1964

Source	Water	Total No. of Samples	Samples in which Coliforms were absent		Samples in which Bact. Coli Type I were absent in 100 ml.	
			No.	%	No.	%
Clatford	Raw	48	47	97.5	48	100
	Final	46	46	100	46	100
*Great Bedwyn Ramsbury	Final	50	50	100	50	100
	Raw	49	47	96	49	100
Ogbourne	Final	48	48	100	48	100
	Raw	93	62	66.5	88	95
	Final	98	98	100	98	100

*Note: Chlorinating arrangements were such that raw water samples could not be taken.

Chemical Analysis of Final Water Results in Parts per Million (ppm)

Source	Date of Sample	Non Carbonate		Nitrate Nitrogen	Nitrite Nitrogen	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Albuminoid Nitrogen	Oxygen Absorbed	Fluoride
		Chlorides	Hardness						
Clatford	13 April 64	10	25	3.9	Absent	0.000	0.000	0.00	Less than 0.1
	24 Nov. 64	9	30	4.6	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	Less than 0.1
Great Bedwyn	13 April 64	15	35	8.2	Absent	0.000	0.000	0.10	Less than 0.1
	23 Nov. 64	16	55	8.6	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.10	Less than 0.1
Ramsbury	13 April 64	9	10	2.8	Absent	0.000	0.000	0.0	Less than 0.1
	23 Nov. 64	10	15	3.2	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.02	Less than 0.1
Ogbourne	7 April 64	14	45	5.2	Less than 0.01	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.1
	25 Nov. 64	12	50	4.5	Absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	Less than 0.1

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1964

Disease	Total cases all ages	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Analysis of total cases in age groups											Age unknown	
				Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-64		65+
Anthrax ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	2	—	—	—
Measles ...	54	—	—	4	4	6	7	5	21	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	2	6	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Acute polymyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough ...	9	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	75	8	9	6	4	6	7	6	25	12	3	1	2	1	2	—

MARLBOROUGH AND RAMSBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector for the year 1964

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my sixteenth Annual Report on the activities of my Department.

As always, I take this opportunity of thanking my staff, without whose co-operation the work would not be carried out so satisfactorily.

I should also like to record my appreciation of the advice received from Dr. Lockett, who left in mid-summer, Dr. Steede and Mr. A. G. Hunt and all other members of the staff.

I am, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

KENNETH F. HUDSON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

General

81 dwellings were completed during the year, four Council Houses and seventy-seven for private occupation. The majority of the houses were built in Aldbourne, with Baydon, Great Bedwyn and Shalbourne as runners-up.

The modernisation of the pre-war Council Houses continues and the complete programme is coming towards its end.

The number of applicants on the waiting list for Council Houses is 196. This figure is high but a considerable number are from persons who reside outside the area. Further, there are few applicants without a separate dwelling of their own, even if not up to the standard required. They wish to obtain a home with all modern amenities.

Slum Clearance

One Demolition Order was made during the year and six dwellings demolished on which Orders were outstanding.

Housing Improvement Grants

Improvement Grants were continued in 1964.

6 Discretionary Grants and 24 Standard Grants were made.

The installation of new sewage schemes will increase the number of standard grants issued as connections are made to the sewers.

Housing Survey

The general survey of the district is still being made and a gradual general improvement is observed when re-inspection of a parish occurs.

WATER SUPPLY

Swindon Corporation is now the water undertaking for this area.

There is ample water available from the six public water supplies as follows:—

Avebury Supply

The scheme supplies water to the parishes of Preshute, Fyfield, West Overton, East Kennett, Avebury, Winterbourne Monkton, Berwick Bassett, Winterbourne Bassett and Broad Hinton. The pumping station is situated at Clatford and pumps the water from the lower chalk 150 feet deep to a reservoir on Totterdown. There is also a balancing tank erected at Broad Hinton. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station.

Baydon Supply

This supplies the parish of Baydon and the water is obtained from Berkshire. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station and pumped to a tower in Baydon. Practically the whole parish is connected to the supply.

Bedwyn Supply

This scheme supplies water to the villages of Chisbury, Great Bedwyn, Ham, Shalbourne, Wilton and Grafton. It also supplies a farm and several cottages at St. Katharine's in the Pewsey Rural District.

The water is pumped from boreholes at Little Bedwyn to two reservoirs, one at Chisbury and the other at Shalbourne. The water is taken from the lower chalk and is chlorinated at the pumping station.

Ogbourne Supply

The water for this supply is obtained at Whitefield, Ogbourne St. George. The water is boosted to a reservoir on the downs and gravitates to the two parishes of Ogbourne St. Andrew and Ogbourne St. George and to the Military Camp. The majority of the properties in both parishes are connected to the mains. The water is chlorinated at Whitefield.

Ramsbury Supply

This scheme supplies water to the parishes of Aldbourne, Chilton Foliat, Froxfield, Mildenhall and Ramsbury. The water is pumped from the green-sand at Ramsbury to a reservoir north of the village and is chlorinated at the pumping station.

Savernake Supply

This water is obtained in bulk from the Borough of Marlborough Supply. The main runs from the top of Postern Hill through the front of Savernake Forest to Iron Gates and supplies Savernake Hospital, two farms and several cottages. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station.

Water Samples

Samples for examination were taken at regular intervals from various points on each of the supplies. No samples were taken of the raw supplies before they were chlorinated.

<i>Supply</i>	<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>No. of Samples Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. of Samples Slightly Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>No. of Samples Not Satisfactory</i>
Avebury	12	12	—	—
Baydon	12	12	—	—
Bedwyn	15	15	—	—
Ogbourne	14	14	—	—
Ramsbury	14	14	—	—
Savernake	12	12	—	—
Total	79	79	—	—

Six of the samples, one from each supply, were for Chemical analysis and were all satisfactory.

The water in this area is all from chalk or greensand so there is little risk of plumbo-solvent action.

The following table gives the numbers of dwelling houses and population supplied from the public water mains. There are no standpipes in the district.

<i>Parishes</i>	<i>Direct to Houses</i>	
	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Population</i>
Aldbourne	394	1,182
Avebury	128	384
Baydon	105	315
Berwick Bassett	11	33
Broad Hinton	67	201
Chilton Foliat	87	261
East Kennett	8	24
Froxfield	60	180
Fyfield	25	75
Grafton	81	243
Great Bedwyn	260	780
Ham	21	63
Little Bedwyn	36	108
Mildenhall	87	261
Ogbourne St. Andrew	68	204
Ogbourne St. George	92	276
Preshute	2	6
Ramsbury	412	1,236
Savernake	5	15
Shalbourne	117	351
West Overton	124	372
Winterbourne Bassett	37	111
Winterbourne Monkton	31	93
Totals	2,258	6,774

Apart from the public supplies there are several private piped supplies which are satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The village sewerage systems for Baydon, Chilton Foliat, Froxfield, Grafton and Shalbourne were completed and came into operation early in September, 1964. Practically 50 per cent. of all dwellings that could be connected were connected by the end of the year.

Apart from these parishes, sewerage is available in Aldbourne, Great Bedwyn and Ramsbury.

The consulting engineers are undertaking surveys of other villages for future schemes.

Housing Manual Schemes have been provided for groups of Council Houses where public sewers are not available.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE

In April, 1964, a weekly collection of household refuse was started and is greatly appreciated by the ratepayers. To commence, it was necessary to engage two more collectors and purchase an additional vehicle.

The refuse is tipped either at Stock Close or at Knowle.

Salvage is collected at the same time as refuse. The following table gives the quantity collected and sold as compared with the previous year. It will be noticed that there was a big increase in scrap iron and this was mainly of the "light" variety.

	1963							1964						
	<i>Weight</i>				<i>Value</i>			<i>Weight</i>				<i>Value</i>		
	<i>T.</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>Q.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	£	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>T.</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>Q.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	£	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Paper	101	16	1	21	663	17	7	107	13	—	—	685	2	9
Rags	1	2	2	4	18	15	3	—	17	—	20	10	6	2
Scrap Iron	8	17	3	24	10	3	2	47	19	1	—	47	19	3
Totals	111	16	3	21	692	16	0	156	9	1	20	743	8	2

DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

Regular inspections of the district was again the feature of rats and mice destruction. As before, the destruction was by means of Warfarin and no troubles were experienced.

The types of visits are shown in the following table:—

	<i>Local Authorities</i>	<i>Private Properties</i>	<i>Farms</i>	<i>Business Properties</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of inspections made	45	970	158	86	1,259
No. of properties inspected ...	17	970	158	86	1,231
No. of properties infested by rats ...	7	205	41	12	265
No. of properties infested by mice ...	—	4	—	—	4
No. of treatments ...	25	209	50	12	296

Total No. of visits made under the Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ... 1,911

FOOD

Food Premises

Type of Business:—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	4
Butchers	...	...	...	5
Cafes	...	...	...	6
Caterers (Licenced)	...	...	...	4
Confectioners	...	...	...	7
Fishmongers	...	...	...	1
Greengrocers	...	...	...	1
Grocers	...	...	...	41
Public Houses	...	...	...	27
Others	...	...	...	5
				101

The above table gives the number and type of premises at the end of the year and varies very slightly with the figures of 1963.

Two bakehouses closed during the year, one in Wilton, the other in Ogbourne St. Andrew, and another filling station is selling wrapped sweets and ice cream in its sales kiosk.

Two stable lads' hostels are now included in these figures which were previously omitted, kitchens of which are subject to inspection with other food premises.

The food premises generally are no problem to us and routine visits are always cordially received by the occupiers. Emphasis was laid on the unfortunate typhoid outbreak in Aberdeen during the year and was quoted as an example of what could happen if hygiene standards were relaxed.

Registered Premises

No. of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice-cream	36
No. of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the manufacture of preserved foods	5

Milk

No. of Dealers' pre-packed licences issued under the Milk and Dairies (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960	
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During the year two licence holders gave up their delivery rounds to dealers already operating in the district and another licence holder sold his business and a new licence was granted to his successor.

The number of dealers actually selling milk by retail in the rural district is now 18, of which 9 have their licences issued by the Ministry, the County Council or an outside local authority.

The special designation "Tuberculin Tested" ceased to be a designation from 1st October, 1964, as all milk produced now is from Attested herds. The designation for "Raw TT" milk is now "Untreated."

Sampling

The following table shows the number of routine samples taken during the year:—

	Standard Test		BIOLOGICAL			
			Tubercle bacillus		Brucella abortus	
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Designated Raw	59	1	24	—	24	—
Pasteurised/Sterilised	151	3	—	—	—	—
Totals	210	4	24	—	24	—

Three of the unsatisfactory samples failed the Methylene Blue test and no apparent reason could be found, subsequent samples all proving satisfactory.

The remaining unsatisfactory sample was a bottle of TT Pasteurised (Channel Island) Milk which failed the Phosphatase test, a test to ensure proper heat treatment. The authority in whose area the milk was treated were notified and the dairy investigated but no reason for this failure was discovered. Again subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act requires most premises where persons are employed for more than twenty-one hours weekly to be registered. Registration of all established places of employment took place between 1st May and 31st July, 1964.

The whole Act, with one or two exceptions, became operative on 1st August, 1964, and basically provided for the safety, health and welfare of employees, notification of accidents, keeping of statistics as to numbers employed in certain categories of work, etc.

Almost all places subject to the Act in this district were registered by 31st July, although some encouragement was necessary to achieve this.

134 inspections of the 65 premises registered took place (this involved measuring each room to satisfy the overcrowding section) and it was found that very few did not already comply.

The following table is a copy of the statistical return to the Ministry which shows the classes of premises subject to the Act and the number of persons employed therein at 31st December, 1964:—

<i>Class</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Employees</i>		<i>Total</i>
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Offices	21	33	45	78
Retail Shops	34	31	32	63
Wholesale Depots	1	5	—	5
Catering Establishments open to Public	7	15	29	44
Fuel Storage Depots	2	9	1	10
Totals	65	93	107	200

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR 1964

Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare) Provisions Act, 1956	...	...	—
Bakehouses	...	...	17
Butchers' Shops	...	...	10
Cafes, etc.	...	...	40
Council House enquiries	...	...	28
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957	...	...	—
Drainage	...	...	366
Factories	...	...	8
Food Premises	...	...	141
Housing and Housing Improvement Grants	...	...	899
Infectious Diseases	...	...	18
Milk Samples	...	...	215
Milk and Dairies	...	...	15
New Buildings	...	...	405
Nuisances	...	...	50
Petroleum	...	...	170
Rats and Mice—Inspections and treatments	...	...	1,578
Refuse Collection	...	...	211
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	54
Town Planning	...	...	120
Water Supply	...	...	1
Water Samples	...	...	87
Unclassified	...	...	227
			<hr/> 4,660 <hr/>

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1964 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF MARLBOROUGH AND RAMSBURY IN THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Written Notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	7	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	34	8	—	—

2—Cases in which *Defects* were found: Two.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

(Sections 133 and 134)

NIL RETURN

Springfords & Rose Ltd., Printers, Devizes.